The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The desires of a man increase with his acquisitions.—Dr. Johnson.

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COAL MINERS' FOES HAVE STRONG SECRET BACKERS

No trade unionist should delude himself on the forces that are arrayed against striking miners.

He should cherish no fancy that these opponents are but a few contract-breaking coal owners who will eventually change their position out of the goodness of their hearts because of suffering women and children.

Every member of organized labor must awaken to this solid opposition, and to the disastrous effects on trade unionism and to social ills that will follow a miners' defeat.

The miners' opposition has ramifications in financial, railroad and industrial circles. It is cool, long-headed and unscrupulous.

Coal owners are but agents of an organized power that clings to the ancient theory that cheap and inefficient labor will increase profits.

This is not the time to argue with strong-willed men who have charted their course and have figured the cost.

They have failed in but one thing—they did not estimate the heroism of the miners and the magnificent aid extended them by trade unionists and sympathizers.

Behind the coal owners are corporations like the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company, the Inland Steel Company, the Wheeling Steel Company and the General Motors Corporation, all hoping for anti-union triumph that coal, mined at starvation wages, may be assured.

Railroads, led by the notoriously anti-union Pennsylvania system, are also behind the coal owners. Before the strike these railroads paid $2.20 to $2.40 a ton for coal. Freight and passenger rates were based on this charge.

These roads now refuse to pay more than $1.60 and $1.75, thus reducing their operating cost, while charging the public rates that are based on $2.20 and $2.40.

Every large stock and bond holder, like the Mellon interests of Pittsburgh, every investment house and large life insurance company that owns bonds of these railroads and industrial corporations are in sympathy with the attack on miners. A union defeat, they hope, means lower operating costs and greater dividends.

They are blind to every other consequence. Their one policy is, "After us the deluge."

When workers realize the mighty forces behind the coal owners they can understand why an industrial dispute that has brought misery to 750,000 persons is not discussed in certain sections of the public press.

It can also be understood why shrieks on "the rights of the public" are not heard. The public is temporarily supplied with coal from the non-union fields of West Virginia and Kentucky.

The miners can break this anti-union front if organized labor and sympathizers continue their support and if a constant agitation is maintained to acquaint the public with conditions.

There is but one way for the coal owners and their allies to win—let the miners be deserted by those who have so loyally stood with them. Greed's one desperate hope is that the miners' friends will become weary of the struggle.

WORKERS' RIGHT TO STRIKE UPHELD BY UNIONIST'S SON

Washington, Jan. 21.—The right of trade unionists to strike to prevent employment of non-union labor was successfully defended in a joint debate between students of Georgetown University. The victorious team included Felix J. Belair, Jr., son of the secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

"Unionists are justified when they cease work to prevent what must ultimately defeat the purpose for which they are organized," said young Belair.

"This is a moral issue, irrespective of what has been decreed by the courts. Employment of non-union labor makes collective bargaining impossible, because of the division of forces brought about thereby. The right to work how, when and where one pleases is a fundamental right of man and cannot be denied him under any circumstances."

The student cautioned judges of the debate not to be swayed by his opponents who, "by dramatic appeal and clever fact distortion, will undoubtedly direct your attention to the evils of the strike," while they and the public ignore fundamental principles.

"Is there any such thing as public rights, as, for instance, the right of a man to be supplied daily with his morning paper, or his right to regular transportation to and from his office? Can we truly consider this a right, or is it merely a convenience?

"Your own common sense will tell you that because the exercise of a right inconveniences some one, that is no reason for taking it away.

"To show the sophistry of those who would eternally cry out for the rights of the public, let me call your attention to the miners' strike against pay reductions. The public supplied with fuel by West Virginia miners who are paid $2.40 a day. From this it is clear that the public doesn't give a rap about the other fellow as long as it is not inconvenienced. Is this justice? Is this a reason to deprive a man of his right to cease work because he is inconveniencing a public whose only regard is its own comfort?

"You are, therefore, faced with this dilemma: Either you must concede the right of a man to refuse to work or admit your selfish insincerity and total indifference to what vitally affects your fellow man and your country.

"Instead of concerning yourselves with taking away the fundamental right of an individual, your greater interest yourselves in preventing that which forces him to use that right."

EMPLOYMENT DECLINES

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 21.—There was a decrease of 60,000 workers employed in factories of this state last year, according to James A. Hamilton, Commissioner of the New York Department of Labor.

STATE HIGH COURT RAPS 'YELLOW DOG'

New York, Jan. 21.—The Interborough Rapid Transit Company has been dealt a blow by the State Court of Appeals, which practically annuls an injunction the company secured against members of its "union" who suspended work in 1926.

If the Court of Appeals—the highest court in this State—upheld the injunction, the company would have clear sailing in its plea for a similar injunction against the A. F. of L. and the Amalgamated Association of Street Car Men. Instead, the Court of Appeals upheld the workers' right to organize, to strike, and to enter into contracts. The injunction is reversed back to the lower courts, "in order that it may exercise its discretion as to whether an injunction of more limited scope should be issued."

The Court of Appeals also indicated that the yellow dog is not a contract within the meaning of law.

"Freedom of contract," said the court, "gives to workers and employers the right to fix by individual or collective bargaining the terms of employment acceptable to both.

"Unless the workers enter by contract, freely made, given up such rights, they may leave any employment at any time separately or in combination and they may demand new terms of employment, which, in turn, must be freely contracted.

Trade unionists point to the court's insistence that a contract must be "freely made." They show that the yellow dog contract is not "freely made" by workers. If it were, unionists ask, why did the courts intimidate workers and make victims of duress when they sign such a document.

OLD TRICK WITH NEW NAME

The company "union" is an old trick with a new name. The essence of this so-called "union" is a denial of collective bargaining and presentation of grievances by representatives chosen by workers.

The company "union" stands for individual bargaining.

This is identical to the so-called "open" shop and the so-called "American" plan.

The company "union" was originated by Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. This corporation is now explaining why employes are on strike.

When the difference between "union" is recalled, one is not ment by a Chicago newspaper:

"The so-called Rockefeller pl is one of the outstanding expe way in this country."

ade unionism and the company essed with this editorial state

f handling labor without unions nents in a social and economic

INJUNCTION CHECKS FREEDOM BY CALLING LABOR PROPERTY

Chicago, Jan. 21.—"Economic freedom is involved in the labor injunction problem," said William Green, president A. F. of L., in an address to the Chicago Bar Association. The address was broadcasted by station WCFL, owned and controlled by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

"Shall labor's right to organize, to function and to strike be abridged?" asked President Green. "Shall labor be free, economically free, and may it enjoy the rights which economic freedom guarantees?"

The A. F. of L. executive cited the Bedford injunction which was upheld by the United States Supreme Court. This writ ordered organized stone cutters to handle stone from non-union quarries of Bedford, Indiana, and vicinity. The injunction was based on the theory that the union stone cutters' refusal to handle the non-union stone was an interference with interstate commerce. In dissenting, Associate Justices Brandeis and Holmes said the decision is a reminder of "involuntary servitude."

"Workers hold it is more essential to the preservation of the Republic that labor remain economically and industrially free than that some corporation's goods shall, at the cost of the exploitation of unprotected workers, be shipped in interstate commerce," said President Green.

"Horses, land, money, buildings, supplies and material are property. Let this and all other tangible, transferable property be protected by the injunction, if threatened with irreparable injury, when there is no remedy at law.

"It is the classification of business, barter, good will and other intangible values as property and subject to equity jurisdiction which is the basis for many applications for injunctions. Labor holds that legal proceedings dealing with these values should be dealt with in the law courts instead of equity courts."

UTILITIES BEING PROBED

Washington, Jan. 21.—Hearings on public utility mergers are being held. The author of the resolution is Senator Walsh of Montana. The main purpose is to investigate financing of mergers and consolidations and sale of securities.

STATE POLICE BLAMED FOR MINE RIOT DEATHS

Walsenburg, Colo., Jan. 21.—Responsibility for the death of two strikebreaking miners was placed on the State police in a verdict reached by a coroner's jury.

The verdict stated that the riot was "unprovoked," and that the State police showed "total disregard for human life by firing through windows into the street outside and we do recommend further investigation into the case."

The action by State police in this case is in line with the general conduct of imported gunmen and of officials charged with the enforcement of law. Only recently 19 strikers were taken at night from the jail here and loaded into automobiles. They were driven 55 miles into New Mexico, where they were left without food or money. This is the second deportation in one week.

The common council has stopped all public meetings, except with the consent of the mayor. That official, who is sworn to uphold the law, recently led a mob who raided the I. W. W. headquarters.

Colorado history of 12 years ago when the United Mine Workers were defeated, is being repeated. The I. W. W.'s are being driven from the state, and social hates that followed the last strike are blazing at a white heat.

The anarchy of coal owners and their allies is a delight to the I. W. W.'s, who are armed with facts for revolutionary agitation elsewhere.

NON-UNIONISTS' WAGE CUT BY COAL OWNERS

Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 21.—A f strikebreakers is a pos- if the Pittsburgh Coal Company continues to reduce wages. The latest cut, which is given the soothing title "wage readjustment," is 4 to 8 cents an hour. Enough occupations remain unaffected to prevent united action by the strikebreakers. Later, when resentment dies down, those who now escape will be called upon to meet the "readjustment."

The company violated its agreement with the United Mine Workers and has lost millions of dollars. It has 400,000 shares of common stock outstanding and these are listed as "risky" by financial authorities. The company, together with the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation, lead in the war to smash the United Mine Workers and thus permit coal owners to base wage rates on the non-union fields of West Virginia and Kentucky.

SOCIALIST PARTY OUT; MUST BE REORGANIZED

New York, Jan. 21.—The Socialist Party must be reorganized on a basis more adapted "to American political experience and practice," according to a plan disclosed by Morris Hillquit and James Oneal, local members of the National Executive Committee. The plan will be proposed to the party's national convention, which meets here next April.

Decline in membership in many parts of the country, coupled with increasing difficulty in collecting dues, it is said, has forced on certain officials of the party the need of revamping its political structure and concepts.

The reorganization suggestion recalls bitter fights in conventions of the A. F. of L. between old-line trade unionists and members of the party.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AID NECKWEAR STRIKE

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 21.—Yale students, members of the Yale Liberal Club, who were arrested for distributing literature as an aid to striking neckwear workers, will carry their case to the State Supreme Court.

The strike was caused by New York neckwear manufacturers moving to this city in the hope that they can establish home manufacture without union interference.

Officers of the Harvard Liberal Club sent to the Yale Club an endorsement of its stand. The telegram concluded:

"The Harvard Liberal Club considers the suppression in New Haven of information concerning the neckwear strike an affront to civil liberty."

The Yale Daily News is distressed over trade union support of these students. This publication says: "Mother Yale has been publicly dishonored, and her fair name has been dragged in the dust by 19 empty-headed students who wanted to get their names in the tabloids."

The thought of Yale students opposing sweatshop conditions shocks this publication, which laments:

"From coast to coast anxious fathers are wondering if Yale is a safe place for their sons."

COMMON STOCK SALE WILL SPEED UP LABOR

Chicago, Jan. 21. — Montgomery Ward & Co., mail order house, urges its 12,000 employees to buy the company's common stock at $107 a share. The stock is registered in the name of the company and placed in its strong box. Employes pay for the stock on the installment plan, but can not pay for it in full in advance.

An eastern financial journal quotes an officer of the company as expressing the opinion that this sale of stock "is good business" for the company. Employes will only buy a few shares, but their weekly payments will cause them to be "contented" and not change employment. This will reduce labor turnover with consequent reduction of expense in training new employes. Efficiency will also increase.

As is usual with common stock, there is no number that dividends will be paid. The stock is considered a "fair" investment by financial authorities, but employes do not know of this uncertainty, as they accept present working conditions and increase output.

COAL MINERS SUFFER IN LONG WAGE FIGHT

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 21.—"Few people realize how striking coal miners of this State, and their dependents, suffer," said J. R. McGregor, representative of the United Mine Workers, in an address to the Central Trades and Labor Union. The unionist urged organized labor and sympathizers to continue their aid.

"Our strike in Missouri, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other parts of the country is caused by the operators' determination to destroy our union," he said. "By their brutal methods, the operators expect to starve the miners and force them to submit to olden days' slavery."

PENSIONS COSTING FEDERAL LABOR MORE

Washington, Jan. 21.—Government employes, under the "liberalized retirement law," enacted two years ago, are paying a larger share of the retirement fund than before, according to Joseph S. McCoy, government actuary, before the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. McCoy testified that the government, under the present law, will pay about one-third of the cost of the retirement fund, whereas, under the old law it was expected to pay half. He explained that the "liberalized" law increased maximum annuities to $1,000 and the contribution of employes from 2½ to 3½ per cent of their salaries. It has effected an increased cost to the employes without increasing any corresponding benefits, he said.

SMITH WINS FIGHT ON PAROLED ALIENS

Washington, Jan. 21.— Governor Smith of New York has won his fight against the Federal Government, which would deport aliens convicted of crime in New York State and who are paroled.

The State executive held that paroled prisoners are often pardoned later and that deportation will deprive them of this right and the subsequent privilege of becoming citizens. He let it be known that if the government insists on deportation he will issue pardons to the paroled men.

The solicitor of the Department of Labor has ruled that Governor Smith's position is legally sound.

Congress Can End Labor Injunction; Judiciary Permitted To Usurp Power

Detroit, Jan. 21.—The history of the labor injunction was reviewed by Senator Shipstead in an interview with the Detroit Labor News. The Minnesota lawmaker blamed Congress for present conditions because of its failure to define and limit the power of equity courts. Senator Shipstead said:

"The courts of the United States," he said, "have overstepped the intent of laws governing the issuance of injunctions and in so doing have in part destroyed the power and influence wielded by the judicial courts because in the degree that the process by injunction has increased the power and influence of the judicial court has diminished, and, in fact, been brought into disrepute in the eyes of the common people.

"In the early days of England, when the common people could not secure redress from the courts, they would invariably appeal to the king, who would decide such cases in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience. As time progressed, the increasing demand upon the king's time assumed such proportions that he could no longer handle such cases individually, and he appointed a 'chancellor,' who was known as representative of the 'King's Conscience,' to whom all appeals were made and who awarded decisions in the king's name. From him later on these powers were transferred to a court known as Chancery Court, when judges connected with the judicial world sit in judgment and render decisions.

"As the government of the United States did not include a king, the power of the Chancery Court was transferred to the 'Court of Equity,' which on the one hand by precedings has usurped the power of the civil and criminal courts and often assumed authority to handle cases which should be dealt with in regular judicial courts outside of the Equity Court.

"Congress, in failing to provide a limit, defining the nature and extent of power invested in the jurisdiction of the 'Equity Court,' has inadvertently sanctioned the many abuses of the injunction."

INTELLIGENCE TESTS ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL

Philadelphia, Jan. 21.—Intelligence tests that actually are tests of brightness, said the educator, "I make this statement after completing a survey of three of our best known institutions of higher education. We are losing sight of good, old-fashioned common sense."

Outside activities, over-emphasis on memory work and the "cramming process" were cited as the outstanding evils of the American system of education today.

Railroad Wrecked By Bankers; St. Paul Victim Of Old Scheme

Washington, Jan. 21.—New York bankers wrecked the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, said Commissioner Eastman of the Interstate Commerce Commission in refusing to approve the majority report that would terminate the court receivership of this trunk line that operates between Chicago and the Pacific Coast. Three other members of the commission, including Chairman Campbell, joined with Mr. Eastman.

"The evidence shows," said Commissioner Eastman, "that the St. Paul for many years conducted all of its financial operations through Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and later through the National City Bank (both of New York) at great profits to the bankers, and that who precipitated the receivership; it was they who immediately thereafter had themselves constituted reorganization managers, and it is they who are to name the directors of the new company. This impresses me as being an arbitrary and irresponsible method of effecting a reorganization."

The majority opinion agreed that a few men brought disaster to the St. Paul, which was considered, prior to 1925, "one of the strongest railroad properties."

"The investigation has shown," the majority stated, "that many of the St. Paul directors knew comparatively little about the affairs of the company and some of them did not attend meetings of the board with any regularity and some of them were affiliated with interests which conflicted in one way or another with the interests of the railroad company."

The plan to end the receivership includes the old system of squeezing out small stockholders by placing an asscssment on all stock to meet the cost of reorganization and other expenses.

WANT ALMSHOUSES TO BE MADE 'HOMEY'

New York, Jan. 21.—Municipal institutions for the care of aged persons must be radically changed to care for the type now admitted, in the opinion of Francis Bardwell, a member of the Massachusetts State Commission on Old Age Pensions, who spoke at a meeting of charity workers.

Mr. Bardwell said the number of able-bodied persons admitted to these institutions has dwindled and that new arrivals are either permanent invalids or feeble-minded persons. He said many State institutions are without adequate infirmary facilities and have not enough physically able residents to carry on ordinary routine work. This is a serious problem, he added, because patients are happier and more easily provided for if they can occupy their time with some task, however trivial.

Municipalities should provide homes for the aged resembling in every respect of comfort and efficiency the average home occupied by private agencies, Mr. Bardwell said.

TARIFF SCHEME FAILS

Washington, Jan. 21.—Opposition to the flexible clause of the tariff law is developing in the Senate.

Under the act the President may change tariff schedules on recommendation of a tariff commission. This opponents claim, is illegal, because all charges in revenue-producing laws shall be made by the House of Representatives. The present scheme gives the President "control of the nation's purse as well as the sword."

CONVICT MADE GOODS REVIVES SLAVE LABOR

Washington, Jan. 21.—Prison labor is a revival of slave labor and should be restricted, declared trade unionists and other advocates of the Hawes-Cooper prison labor bill at a conference in this city.

The bill gives each State the power to regulate the sale of convict-made goods shipped from one State to another.

Senator Hawes said the bill permits a State to do what it wants to do without interference from any other State. Congressman Cooper explained that the bill seeks to prevent goods made in prisons in that State, but cannot regulate prison-made goods shipped into that State. This nullifies every effort of Ohio citizens to outlaw prison-made goods. If the Hawes-Cooper bill is passed, it will lose the characteristic of prison-made goods will be removed, and each State may treat these imported commodities as though they were manufactured in their own State.

The trade union speakers were John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer Union Label Trades Department, A. F. of L., and Edgar A. Mace and Edward McGrady, legislative representatives, A. F. of L.

FEDERAL COTTON ACT AIDS STOCK GAMBLERS

Waco, Texas, Jan. 21.—A "joker" in the federal cotton futures act conceals a loophole through which any grade of cotton manipulators of this commodity would enforce upon them, according to a resolution adopted at a meeting of McLennan county farmers.

Section 5 of the act contains the "joker." This provides that the purchaser, the spinner, can not have delivered to him cotton of a grade that he needs to fill his cloth contracts. Instead, on delivery day, he must accept any grade of cotton the seller sees fit to offer at a price that meets the commercial differences in class for something he does not want and can not use. One speaker said:

"Under Section 5 the few great cotton accumulators manipulate the price, and upon that price is sold the main product upon which depends the South's prosperity."

OUT-OF-WORK INSURANCE FAVORED BY UNIONISTS

Vancouver, Canada, Jan. 21.—The Trades Council favors a federal unemployment insurance act. The resolution states that "unemployment is a problem of national character and can not be satisfactorily dealt with by provincial or municipal authorities."

The Dominion government is urged to enact laws "providing for the creation of a state unemployment insurance fund, by assessments on industries similar to provincial compensation funds, to be administered by

Federal Board Controls Railroads; Rail Executive Ignores Court Rule

Boston, Jan. 21.—The Interstate Commerce Commission was assailed by Fred W. Sargent, president of the Chicago & North Western Railway, in an address to the Massachusetts Bankers' Association.

The railroad head said that the commission's control of railroads "is tantamount to government ownership, without government responsibility." He said the powers and duties of the commission should be confined to the "general functions of the original law under which it was created—the maintenance of reasonable and just transportation rates, classifications and practices."

Mr. Sargent's views do not accord with the United States Supreme Court. In the Dayton-Goose Creek Railway case the court rejected the claim that the duties of the commission is limited to the fixing of reasonable rates and classifications.

"This is too narrow a view of the commerce clause (of the Federal Constitution)," said the court. "To regulate in the sense intended is to foster, protect and control the commerce with appropriate regard to the welfare of those who are immediately concerned as well as the public at large, and to promote its growth and insure its safety."

The court also upheld that section of the transportation act which compels railroads to turn over to the government one-half of all profits in excess of 6 per cent on their valuation. The court said that profits of a private business can not be limited, but that as supervised, as are the public service "can not expect either high or speculative dividends."

Railroad profits in excess of a fair return that are seized by the government is not confiscation, the court continued, because "by the carrier never had such a title to the excess."

The decision upholds the commission's present practices that are, Mr. Sargent says, "tantamount to government control." Railroad securities are supervised, as are rates, car supply and distribution, joint use of terminals, construction of new lines, abandonment of old lines, and other financial, technical and managerial features of railroading.

LABOR'S SONGS ON RADIO

Chicago, Jan. 21.—The first labor songs that have been broadcasted were put on the air by Station WCFL, owned and controlled by the Chicago Federation of Labor. The songs were "The Voice of Labor," "Song to Reform," and "Don't Forget the Union Label." They were written by Thomas H. West, well-known labor song writer and editor of the Kansas City Labor Herald.

SOUND PUBLIC OPINION CAN AID FEDERAL LABOR

Washington, Jan. 21.—Government employes should create a public opinion in favor of wage increases, said Congressman Welch in a talk to organized federal employes here.

The California legislator introduced a bill which carries increases of about $300 yearly for nearly all grades and subdivisions in the classification act of 1923. The minimum in the clerical, administrative and fiscal service is $1,500 per annum, instead of $1,140, as at present.

Luther Steward, national president, and Miss Gertrude McNally, secretary-treasurer of the National Federation of Federal Employes, also spoke in favor of the Welch bill.

NEW YORK TEACHERS WIN

New York, Jan. 21.—Organized teachers, affiliated to the A. F. of L., have won a two-year fight for the appointment of Dr. Abraham Lefkowitz as first assistant in the High School of Commerce. Dr. Lefkowitz ranked first in a list of 11 eligible teachers, but was passed appointment on the grounds of "radical tendencies."

Organized labor joined with other citizens against such sweeping powers assumed by the Board of Superintendents in the decision on appointments rather than specific charges.

MOVIE OPERATORS GAIN

Chicago, Jan. 21.—Movie Picture Operators' Union has secured a new wage agreement. Rates are increased 10 per cent. Last fall one of these theaters discharged union operators in violation of its agreement. The dispute spread and every manager in the city locked out his operators. The union won its point after the theaters remained dark one week.

50,000 IDLE IN BOSTON

Boston, Jan. 21.—The Central Labor Union has called a conference to discuss unemployment in this city. Business men and representatives of social and civic organizations are invited.

Trade unionists report that 50,000 persons are unemployed in Greater Boston. This is the largest number since the winter of 1914-15.